The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Too long denial of guaranteed right is sure to lead to revolution.—Ulysses S. Grant.

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WHOLE NO. 1105. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 1932 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 22, NO. 14.

$2,290,000,000 Bill to Relieve Unemployment Passed by House

Garner Measure Provides $100,000,000 for Direct Relief—Balance for Public Works and Loans to States, Counties and Municipalities—Includes Provision for Five-Day Week.

Washington.—The House of Representatives passed the Garner $2,290,000,000 unemployment relief bill by a vote of 216 to 182.

The bill, which was given the complete support of the American Federation of Labor, authorizes the expenditure of $1,200,000,000 for the construction of public works, turns $100,000,000 over to President Hoover to be used in direct relief as he deems wise, and permits an increase in the capital of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation from its present $2,000,000,000 to $3,000,000,000.

Broad power would be given to the corporation to make loans to States, counties, municipalities and other political subdivisions for construction projects that will put persons to work.

Loans would also be made to cities to meet any municipal problem, including refinancing of bond issues for for direct relief to the unemployed.

Provision is made for a five-day work week for persons employed on the Federal public works program, so as to give employment to a greater number than would be employed on a five and one-half or six-day week.

Loans could also be made by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation for financing exports of wheat, cotton and agricultural products on long term credits.

Gasoline Tax

A gasoline tax of one-fourth of a cent per gallon would be imposed to bring the Government an estimated revenue of $40,000,000 to cover interest and sinking fund charges on loans for the Federal public works program, so as not to jeopardize balancing the Federal budget.

Hundreds of unemployed World War veterans, in Washington demanding immediate cash payment of the soldiers' bonus, were in the House galleries. They broke into applause when the bill was passed.

The bill was sent to the Senate, which already had under consideration the bill sponsored by Senator Wagner of New York authorizing the appropriation of $2,000,000,000 for various form of unemployment relief.

WAGNER $2,000,000,000 RELIEF BILL REPORTED

Washington.—The Senate Committee on Banking and Currency reported favorably the $2,000,000,000 unemployment relief bill sponsored by Senator Wagner of New York.

Of the total amount, $1,500,000,000 would be loaned to self-liquidating enterprises of States and subdivisions, and $500,000,000 for public works.

LABOR FAVORS 5-BILLION BOND ISSUE, M'GRADY SAYS

A. F. of L. Legislative Representative Declares Huge Public Works Program Is Absolutely Necessary to Provide Work for Idle.

Washington.—Organized labor's approval of a five billion dollar Federal bond issue to finance huge construction projects for the relief of unemployment was expressed by Edward F. McGrady, legislative representative of the American Federation of Labor, in a radio address here.

Stressing the menace of our unemployed army of 10,500,000 workers with 7,000,000 more working only one, two or three days a week, Mr. McGrady said:

"The money raised by this bond issue would be used for useful national, State and local public works. Plans have already been drawn for public works calling for an expenditure of $500,000,000, so that if we had this $5,000,000,000 bond issue, public works could get started at once and then be enlarged upon. Not less than 2,500,000 people could be put to work at once, possibly more.

"Vast quantities of material would be needed, men would be put to work, in our mines, quarries, fabricating factories, cutting timber, building new machinery, tremendous orders for steel, iron and cement, architects would be put to work, clerical forces would be enlarged and this new spending power of these people being put to work would mean that more money would be spent among the professional people of our country and the farmers. Could these bonds be sold? Most emphatically, yes.

"If you approve of this bond issue, I recommend that you, the American citizens, raise your voices so that they will be heard and listened to. But you've got to do it quickly, you've got to do it now, so that the President of these United States and Congress shall know how you feel about it. Tell them to stop talking and start working."

FORCED WORK IN SOVIET EXPORT LUMBER INDUSTRY

Two American Investigators Find No Compulsory Labor in Archangel District—Piecework Wages with Government Living Quarters.

Moscow.—Two Americans, Spencer Williams, Moscow representative of the American-Russian Chamber of Commerce, and Myron G. Doll, an engineer who has been a resident of Moscow for some time, after an investigation of the Archangel timber district, made affidavits that they could see no signs of convict or forced labor in the felling, rafting and loading of lumber destined for export to the United States and other countries.

The affidavits referred only to the places which they visited. They made the investigation on the invitation of Exportles, the Soviet timber exporting trust, and were accompanied by the Moscow correspondent of the New York Times.

The party visited all branches of the industry from the forests to the ships. The workers were mostly young persons, between 15 and 25 years old, recruited from the peasantry in the neighboring villages and the collective farms, who leave the farms during the slack period in summer to work in Archangel and vicinity. They are paid on a piecework basis with living quarters provided by the Government.

The investigators found no guards, barbed wire or machine guns. The workers were reported as unanimous in agreeing that they were working of their own free will and could leave whenever they liked. They said: "In Soviet Russia every one must work if he wants to earn a living—that is the only forced thing about our labor."

Ladies' Garment Workers Prepare for Big Strike

New York.—The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union continued its preparations for the expected strike in the garment industry. David Dubinsky, secretary-treasurer of the union, and Isidore Nagler, manager of the Joint Board, declared that the issues at stake are piece work, demanded by the employers, and limitation of contractors, demanded by the union.

Both speakers declared the union would never accept the piece-work demand of the Industrial Council of Cloak and Suit Manufacturers. The union leaders told the shop chairmen to be on their guard against any attempt of employers to introduce the piece-work system. The old agreement with the employers had already expired.

FEDERAL CONTROL OF SOFT COAL INDUSTRY NECESSARY

President Lewis of United Mine Workers Tells Senate Committee the Miners Are Living in Misery—Operators Have No Code of Ethics.

Washington.—John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America, told the Senate Mines and Mining subcommittee that the Davis-Kelly Bill for Federal regulation of the bituminous coal mining industry "represents the minimum degree of legislation necessary to raise this industry out of the quicksand in which it finds itself. The industry is beggared. Its people are in misery and it is asking for a helping hand."

He said that "collectively the mine operators are the most inefficient group in American enterprise. They have no code of ethics. They are simply engaged in a struggle to continue in business and maintain their existence." He asserted that to do this they "sell the blood and sinew and bone of the hundreds of men who engage in industry and sell the future of their children."

The testimony of Mr. Lewis closed the hearings on the bill which the Senate Mines and Mining subcommittee, under the chairmanship of Senator Hatfield of West Virginia, had held for nearly three months.

The Davis-Kelly bill is supported by the American Federation of Labor.

ROOSEVELT OFFERS FARM AID TO THE UNEMPLOYED

Sponsors Plan to Have Jobless Raise Their Own Food and Lessen Cost of Unemployment Relief.

Albany, N. Y.—Governor Roosevelt formally put into effect his plan to have the State use abandoned farms to put the unemployed to work caring for themselves.

"Any person or family now receiving work or home relief and wants to go back to the farm," the Governor said, "should communicate with the local relief bureau or welfare office. He explained that the plan is not a "back to the farm" program, but merely a temporary measure to lessen the cost to cities of unemployment relief. He said that it also gave the workers a chance to be partially self-sustaining.

Chairman Harry L. Hopkins of the Temporary Emergency Relief Administration in New York City, said that "no one believes that all of the unemployed going to the farms will become self-supporting, but we do believe that they can live with much less public relief than they are now receiving. It is important to remember that these people are not going into competitive farming. They will raise food for themselves and their families, and not produce for sale in the market."

State aid for the unemployed was begun in New York last fall after a special session of the Legislature approved the Roosevelt suggestion. The Legislature appropriated twenty million dollars to provide wages for emergency public construction and direct assistance in the form of food, clothing, fuel, rent and medical attention. Next November the State will vote on a $30,000,000 bond issue to continue the State aid.

Washington Fireman Loses Fight to Hold Two Jobs

Washington.—The Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia sustained the regulation of the District Commissioners preventing firemen from engaging in gainful occupation when off duty.

A member of the fire department brought suit in 1930 asking for an injunction preventing the Commissioners from enforcing the order. The lower court granted the injunction. The District appealed the decision, and the Appeals Court reversed the decree of the lower court.

The decision said that firemen must be available in any emergency at all times, and that the Commissioners' order was undoubtedly valid with regard to them. It was pointed out, however, that in certain other District employments such an order would be an encroachment on the private rights of the individual and the courts might justly relieve the situation.

Tobacco Monopoly Planned By Government of Uruguay

Montevideo, Uruguay.—The Minister of Finance sponsored a project for a tobacco monopoly to include manufacture, purchase, sale and storage of tobacco and cigarettes by the State, according to a report by Leslie E. Reed, consul general of the United States here. The monopoly would be administered by the recently created National Administration of Industries, which also handles alcohol, combustibles, cement and other commodities.

The Government declares that by the tobacco monopoly it expects to increase the revenues of the State through the elimination of private business in tobacco in favor of the Government's enterprises, decrease payments abroad for tobacco, stop smuggling of contraband tobacco into Uruguay, and to encourage the domestic growing of tobacco.

10,634,000 JOBLESS IN UNITED STATES

President Green of A. F. of L. Says Unemployed Will Hold Members of Congress Responsible for Refusal to Pass Relief Legislation — Explains New Estimate Increasing Jobless Over 2,500,000.

Washington.—"There were more than ten and a half million persons out of work in the United States in March, 1932, according to our new estimate of unemployment," declared William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, in a statement on the unemployment situation, based on figures collected by various departments of the United States Government.

"This is more than one-fifth of those normally at work for pay.

"These ten millions of unemployed are looking to Congress for help.

"They want work.

"They are impatiently looking for plans that will provide them with opportunity to earn a living.

"They will vote in the November election.

"The measuring rod labor will apply to legislative records is influence in creating jobs.

"One-fifth of those normally earning incomes by work are prevented from producing the wealth that would pay their incomes.

"They are living on the proceeds of past work or on charity.

Poverty Starves Millions

"Poverty is starving these millions physically and spiritually.

"Vital questions are dominating discussion in homes and meeting places all over the country.

"Deep-seated unrest is everywhere apparent.

"Men and women are near desperation.

"They ask for the opportunity to earn their daily bread.

"The increase in credit and decrease in bank failures mean nothing to them if jobs are not forthcoming as a consequence. Financial institutions are for service."

New Basis for Unemployment Estimate

In explaining the new method of estimating the number of jobless which increased the total number of unemployed by over 2,500,000 a month for the first three months of the present year, Mr. Green said, in part:

"The American Federation of Labor has been publishing each month an estimate of the number of persons unemployed in the United States based on reports of unemployment from trade unions.

"After careful study we found that unemployment has been increasing much more rapidly among the unorganized than among union workers.

"We have therefore based our new estimate of unemployment on employment indexes published by the United States Government applied to the figures for gainful workers in the United States Census of April, 1930.

"The resulting figures show 6,894,000 persons laid off since April 1, 1930.

"Adding the number unemployed according to the April, 1930, unemployment census, and the number who are seeking work for the first time since then, we have the total number out of work in March, 1932, 10,634,000.

"We feel sure that this is a conservative estimate."

Government Unemployment Figures

In reaching the estimate Mr. Green pointed out that the basis was the 38,000,000 persons scheduled as employed by Government indexes in March, 1932.

The Government publishes monthly statements of unemployment covering 18,000,000 of the 38,000,000. Around 13,200,000 persons are in occupations where employment has changed very little since the 1930 census. In the service industries, including 800,000 workers, unemployment is estimated from trade indexes. These groups cover 84 per cent of the 38,000,000 employed in March. The remaining 6,000,000 are in trades which are not covered by employment statistics. Among these workers it is assumed the same employment change obtains as in the other groups.

6,894,000 Laid Off in Two Years

This compilation shows that employers laid off 6,894,000 workers since April, 1930. The Government unemployment census showed 2,964,000 persons out of work one week or more in that month. These two items make a total of 9,858,000 unemployed in March, 1932, who were employed before the depression began.

Since April, 1930, population increase has added 776,000 new workers seeking jobs, who are unemployed or have displaced other workers.

Unemployment Increasing Steadily

"These figures," Mr. Green concluded, "make a total of 10,634,000 out of work and needing work in March, 1932. The figures for the first three months of 1932 are as follows: January 10,276,000; February, 10,528,000; March, 10,634,000.

"Unemployment has increased steadily since January. From March to May unemployment in industry has continued to increase as shown both by reports from trade unions and figures of the United States Department of Labor.

"At least 200,000 persons were laid off from March to May, and it is probable that unemployment in industry is now higher than ever before in history."

Western Electric Cuts Work And Wages to Help Depression

New York.—Officials of the Western Electric Company issued a wage cut decree of ten per cent for all of the company's employes. The cut took the form of the four-and-one-half-day week in place of the five-day week with corresponding reductions in pay. The company's plants are located in Chicago, Ill., Kearney, N. J., Point Breeze, Md., and Queensboro, N. Y.

The Western Electric Company is owned by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, whose president is Walter S. Gifford. Mr. Gifford is also the Director of President Hoover's Committee on Unemployment Relief.

Cutting wages by means of part-time work with part-time pay is the Electric Company's favorite method of unemployment relief. Its cure for the business depression caused by lack of buying power among the wage earners is to still further decrease the buying power by slashing wages. It is the expression of the identity of interest which it is sometimes claimed exists between those who own and control industry and those who perform the useful work.

Voluntary Action Is Fundamental In Labor Movement, Woll Declares

Superiority of Economic to Political Power, Non-Partisan Political Action, Denial of Class Struggle, and Benefits of Union-Management, Cooperation Also Cited as Basic Principles of American Federation of Labor.

New York.—Voluntary action, superiority of economic organization to political power, non-partisan political action instead of independent political party efforts, and the denial of the class struggle between capital and labor were emphasized as the four outstanding principles of organized labor in the United States by Matthew Woll, third vice president of the American Federation of Labor, in a radio address here over the Columbia network on "The Policies of American Labor."

Importance of Labor Policies

Mr. Woll said, in part:

"The policies of American labor have centered about such questions as the remuneration for work done, the length of the working day and the working week, scientific management, the question of technological changes, the injunction, protection against industrial hazards of all kinds, such internal questions as admission to the union, the use of the union label, apprenticeship, and a host of other matters of trade union government.

Voluntary Action

"The principle of voluntary action runs through the whole American labor structure. It is the principle of government by consent applied to the movement of labor. It provides the basis for autonomy of individual, national and international unions within the American Federation of Labor. It exemplifies the principle of self-government in Labor.

"The American Federation of Labor is the expression of this voluntary association of craft organizations. It has no power of its own other than that which is delegated to it voluntarily by its member organizations.

"It is not a super-organization, but a federation of organizations. When it speaks it speaks in the name of all the affiliated units, but it cannot bind them to acceptance of a policy in advance.

Superiority of Economic Organization

"The second characteristic of American organized labor is the emphasis on economic organization rather than on political power.

"This does not mean that Labor has not valued legislation and has valiantly fought for it. It does mean that American labor carefully and cautiously distinguishes between activities and relationships coming properly within the functions of government and those rightfully confined to voluntary actions by the varying elements and factors within our economic, industrial and social life.

Non-Partisan Political Action

"But Labor's action on political action is not negative, but a positive one. It has no independent political party action; but that does not mean that it does not believe in political action.

"American labor has always believed in political action. It believes in non-partisan political action because of the nature of our people, our Government, and our country.

Non-Partisan Achievements

"Over a period of thirty years labor can now point to an economic movement that has grown in power and influence. And it can point as well to genuine success in its non-partisan program. In 1928 labor endorsed 22 candidates for the United States Senate; labor elected 11 of them. In 1930 labor endorsed 20 candidates for the United States Senate, electing 17 of them. In 1931 it successfully prevented the confirmation of the appointment of Judge Parker to the United States Supreme Court upon the issue of the yellow dog contract.

231 Labor Laws Enacted

"On the matter of legislation in the last twenty years labor has succeeded in having Congress enact 231 laws favorable to it which were prepared by labor and in its interest. And during that same period labor defeated 115 proposed laws, which, if enacted, would have been distinctly detrimental to organized labor and wage earners in general.

"In the last session of Congress alone, 57 laws favorable to labor were enacted. In 1931, the various State Legislatures that met passed 489 laws distinctly favorable to labor and which were prepared, introduced, drafted and furthered by organized labor.

Class Struggle Denied

"The fourth underlying characteristic of the American labor movement is its rejection of the theory of the irreconcilable conflict between capital and labor.

"No one would doubt that there are tests of strength between labor and the employer from time to time, but this is different from a philosophy that is engaged in class war.

"American labor affirms the mutuality—not identity—of interest of all concerned in the processes of production.

"This principle of the mutuality of interest has been woven into the fabric of the labor movement in countless ways. It expresses itself in the principle of collective bargaining which has been part of the strategy of the labor movement from the earliest times.

Union-Management Cooperation

"Within recent years there has been an extension of this idea of collective bargaining through the development of what is known as union-management cooperation. This represents not only the extension of the cooperative principles, but represents a greater measure of responsibility on the part of labor in the task of management itself.

"Union management as it developed on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad with the active support of the Railway Department of the American Federation of Labor has performed a most unique and important function in focusing public attention on the value of this type of cooperative effort.

"Similar plans of union management have been developed by the textile industry, the printing industry, the clothing industry, the paper industry, the street car industry, and a host of other activities where to a greater or less extent this principle of the extension of union activity has been developed in the field of industrial relations.

"Then, too, organized labor of America is now giving serious attention to the necessity for economic planning, all of which developments exemplify the constant growth of labor's activities and policies based on the fundamental principles to which I have referred."

"The American Federation of Labor," Mr. Woll concluded, "has given its support to the democratic concept of government by consent. It has given proper weight to economic forces. It has developed a non-partisan political program that has brought results without diffusion of effort. It has made explicit the place of cooperation in industry.

"To understand these four underlying principles is to understand the policies and objectives that have grown out of these principles."

Mr. Woll's address was the sixth of a series on the general subject "American Labor and the Nation," broadcast over the Columbia network under the auspices of the National Advisory Council on Radio in Education with the cooperation of the American Federation of Labor, the Workers' Education Bureau of America, and the University of Chicago Press.

STRIKE OF 19,000 ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS THREATENED

Wage Dispute in New York City Building Industry Leads to Ultimatum by Elevator Constructors' Union.

New York.—Frank Feeney, president of the International Union of Elevator Constructors, threatened a strike of 19,000 elevator constructors throughout the United States unless the Elevator Manufacturers' Association ended the lockout against the union's members running from early in May. Mr. Feeney issued an ultimatum to the manufacturers that unless the lockout was submitted to arbitration the general strike would be proclaimed.

The lockout and ultimatum were an outgrowth of the dispute affecting nearly all of the New York City building trades a number of weeks ago, as a result of which the Building Trades Council and the Building Trades Employers' Association reached an agreement for a 20 to 30 per cent wage reduction, which brought the scale down to $10 a day.

It was then learned that the International Union of Elevator Constructors and the Elevator Manufacturers' Association had made a verbal agreement under which the members of the union were to receive $1.20 a day above the $10 scale for other crafts. The Building Trades Council undertook to have the higher scale applied to all crafts. The Manufacturers' Association refused to do this, and the Building Trades Council finally signed the wage cut agreement excluding the elevator constructors.

Then the Elevator Manufacturers' Association abrogated its verbal agreement with the International Union of Elevator Constructors on what the union charged was pressure from the Building Trades Employers' Association. The lockout followed.

The controversy was still further complicated when some twelve other unions affiliated with the Building Trades Council refused to adhere to the agreement approved by the council for practically the entire building industry.

General Electric Increases Assessment for Idle Relief

Schenectady, N. Y.—The company union of the General Electric Company approved a plan whereby the company will increase the assessment to as much as two per cent on the earnings of each worker for unemployment relief. The increase applies to all employes receiving 50 per cent or more of normal wages. The contribution of one per cent was adopted on December 1, 1930. The company adds an amount equal to the assessment levied on the workers.

INSULL'S CAREER AS PUBLIC UTILITY MAGNATE CLOSES

Resignation from Mid-West Utilities Concerns Writes Finis for Man Whose Policies Brought Losses of Millions of Dollars to Small Investors.

Chicago.—The resignation of Samuel Insull as chairman of the board of the Commonwealth Edison Company, the Peoples Gas Light and Coke Company and the Public Service Company of Northern Illinois wrote finis to his career as a public utility magnate. The three concerns are operating companies under the Mid-West Utilities Company, the big $2,000,000,000 Insull holding concern that was thrown into receivership seven weeks ago. Insull also resigned as one of the receivers of the Mid-West concern.

For the last fifteen years Insull was the great antagonist of public ownership and operation of public utilities. He stressed his opposition mainly on the alleged greater efficiency of privately-owned plants. But that efficiency did not prevent the nation-wide Mid-West Utilities under his own autocratic control from getting to the point where it could not pay its bills.

Thousands of workers and middle class investors lost millions of dollars when Mid-West Utilities went to the wall. Stock which was unloaded on the public up to as high as $50 a share is currently quoted at 36 cents. Those familiar with the financial set-up of the concern are of the opinion that the owners of the common stock will receive nothing under the reorganization effected by the receivers.

Theatre Managers Threaten Union Vaudeville Orchestras

Baltimore.—The three Baltimore theatres using vaudeville shows and orchestras threatened to dispense with them indefinitely owing to a controversy with the musicians' union over pay for Sunday work.

When the theatres recently opened on Sunday the theatre owners agreed to pay the musicians double time for every Sunday, which amounted to $22 for each musician and $33 for each director. The musicians finally agreed to time-and-one-half pay for Sunday, but the exhibitors refused to pay more than single time and said they would give straight film shows until the musicians' union accepted the single time pay.

Telephone Employes Strike

Buenos Aires.—The Argentine Government began efforts to end the strike of telephone employes which was said to have resulted in $1,000,000 damage by "sabotage." It was stated that telephone cables serving 20,000 homes and business establishments had been cut.

U. S. Senate Votes Furloughs For Most Government Employes

Exempts Persons Receiving Less Than $1,200—William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, Condemns All Pay Slashes, But in View of the Determination of Congress to Attack Federal Workers' Living Standards He Says Five-Day Work Week Plan Is Better for Federal Employes and Labor Generally Than the Horizontal Wage Cut.

Washington.—The Senate adopted the five-day week compulsory furlough plan for Government employes after nearly a week's hectic discussion of various forms of pay cuts and a bewildering number of propositions.

The Senate first approved a straight 10 per cent cut for all Federal employes receiving more than $1,000 per year, and then voted down the motion to substitute the furlough plan.

Confronted with the evident determination of Congress to impose a wholly unjustified pay reduction on over half a million Government employes either by a horizontal wage cut or a compulsory furlough without pay, William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, threw the strength of the Federation to the furlough plan.

In a letter to every member of the United States Senate he said:

"Notwithstanding the appeals which Labor has made to preserve wage and living standards established through years of effort for Government employes, Congress now seems determined to reduce the income of Federal employes either through a horizontal reduction in wages or through the substitution of a furlough plan, which includes a provision for the five-day work week.

Wage Cut Is Unsound Policy

"Labor firmly believes that the policy being pursued by Congress is economically unsound, because through a reduction in the earning power of thousands of Government employes, the market for manufactured goods will be further reduced and most seriously curtailed. All of this, in my judgment, will tend to delay a return of normal conditions. I know there are millions of people who share this opinion with the officers and members of the American Federation of Labor.

"Notwithstanding this fact, Labor realizes that Congress is determined to pass an economy measure. Perhaps even at this late hour it would not be amiss if I would venture an opinion as to what in my judgment would be the lesser of the two evils. For this reason I am taking the liberty of sending you this communication.

Five-Day Work Week Furlough

"It is my opinion that the five-day work week furlough plan for Government employes, surrounded with such safeguards as Labor's friends in Congress might be able to impose, would be more preferable and advantageous to Federal employes and to Labor generally than a horizontal reduction in salaries and wages.

"I therefore suggest that Congress adopt the five-day week furlough plan for Government employes as herein referred to as a substitute for the proposal that the wages and salaries of Government employes be reduced ten per cent as provided for by the pending Economy Bill.

"I sincerely hope the friends of Labor in the Congress of the United States will share with me this expressed opinion and will find it possible to follow the suggestions which I have herein made."

Senate Adopts Furlough Plan

As a result of President Green's letter and similar efforts by officials of unions affiliated with the A. F. of L., the Senate reconsidered its rejection of the furlough and adopted it by a vote of 36 to 33.

Under the furlough plan Government employes receiving more than $1,200 per year will be furloughed without pay for 24 days during the next fiscal year, which reduces the length of the work week from five and one-half to five days.

The House of Representatives rejected the furlough several weeks ago and adopted a 11 per cent straight pay cut with employes receiving up to $2,500 exempted.

The radical difference between the Senate furlough plan and the House pay reduction were referred to the conference committee composed of representatives of both houses.

ORGANIZED LABOR WINS FIGHT FOR PICKET SIGNS

District of Columbia Commissioners Change Sign Code Which Was Interpreted as Banning Right of Pickets to Carry Placards Announcing Unfair Labor Conditions.

Washington.—Organized labor of the District of Columbia won a distinct victory for strike activities when the District Commissioners decided to amend the sign regulations so as to permit picketing.

The controversy arose over an interpretation of the sign code in connection with a labor dispute between Fur Workers' Union Local 72 and a furrier. The union pickets, carrying placards informing the public that the furrier was unfair to organized labor, patrolled the sidewalk in front of the furrier's shop.

The municipal drafting committee said it had no intention of discriminating against labor when it framed the sign code. Nevertheless, Corporation Counsel W. W. Bride held that the placards violated the code.

The Fur Workers' Union asked the Commissioners to hold a hearing on a proposed amendment that the sign rules shall not apply to "signs displayed or carried for the purpose of acquainting the public with the existence of a labor dispute."

Organized labor was represented at the hearing by Edward J. Tracy of the Legal Information Bureau of the American Federation of Labor; Marx Lewis, attorney for the Fur Workers' Union, and John B. Colpoys, editor of the Washington Trades Unionist.

Mr. Tracy contended that the sign regulation as interpreted by Mr. Bride abrogated the right of labor to maintain picketing as defined in the Norris-LaGuardia anti-injunction bill recently enacted by Congress. He said that Congress had legalized picketing, and that any attempt by the District Commissioners to enforce regulations against union placards so used would not only be a violation of the Norris-LaGuardia law, but would also be the same as lending their offices in behalf of unfair employers in local labor disputes.

At the conclusion of the hearing, Maj. Gen. John C. Gotwals, Engineer Commissioner, said the sign regulations would be modified to prevent any future ban on labor picketing.

Federal Employes' Union Commends A. F. of L.

Washington. — The Civil Service Branch of Local Union No. 2, National Federation of Federal Employes, adopted a resolution thanking President Green and the American Federation of Labor for their untiring efforts in defense of the pay and living standards of Government employes.

The resolution said "it is highly desirable that the Federal employes retain the goodwill and the effective support of the American Federation of Labor in the future," and declared it to be "the sense of the Civil Service Branch of Local No. 2, Federation of Federal Employes, that necessary steps should be taken to re-establish harmonious relations and affiliation with the American Federation of Labor." The resolution was adopted by unanimous vote.

Mexico Divides 22,000 Acres Among Unemployed Workers

Mexico City.—An impressive ceremony took place at Zacatecas when Governor Leonardo Ruiz parcelled out among over 300 jobless laborers more than 22,000 acres of the Malpaso hacienda.

Many of the laborers had been repatriated from the United States, where they were discharged and left penniless by corporations whose agents had persuaded them to go to that country to enjoy the alleged high wages and living standards which it was claimed were universal there. A number of the workers emphasized in speeches the hardships and misery they had suffered across the border. All promised to work their holdings continuously.

BENJAMIN SCHLESINGER LABOR LEADER, DIES

Founder and President of International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Is Victim of Tuberculosis—Leader in Many Strikes—Improved Work Conditions in Dress Industry.

New York.—Benjamin Schlesinger, founder and for thirty-two years president of International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, died in Cragmor Sanitarium, Colorado Springs, Colo., June 6, at the age of 55. He had gone to the sanitarium to undergo treatment for tuberculosis, but the long trip from New York overtaxed his strength. He suffered a hemorrhage from which he did not recover.

His body was brought to New York by his son, Abraham, who had accompanied Mr. Schlesinger to Colorado Springs.

Mr. Schlesinger was one of the best known labor leaders in the United States. He fought steadfastly for better wage and working conditions and during his term of office led his union in twelve strikes.

Hillquit's Tribute

On learning of Mr. Schlesinger's death, Morris Hillquit, counsel for the union, said:

"In the death of Benjamin Schlesinger the American labor movement loses a leader of the best and highest type. He combined in an unusual degree the qualities of pure idealism with practical resourcefulness and a single-minded devotion to the cause of the laboring people. To the men and women in the women's garment industry he will remain irreplaceable. During a period of twenty years, with few short breaks, he guided their destinies as president of their organization, as their champion in all struggles and counselor in all difficult situations. The evolution of the women's clothing industry from the disgraceful conditions of the sweatshop days to the present state of relative decency was to a considerable extent due to his tireless efforts."

Funeral at Union Headquarters

A delegation of vice presidents of the union met the body at Chicago and escorted it to New York. A public funeral was held in the auditorium of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, where the body lay in state for three hours. Eulogies were delivered by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor; David Dubinsky and Salvatore Ninfo, secretary-treasurer and vice president, respectively, of the union, and Morris Hillquit.

Born in Lithuania

Mr. Schlesinger was born in Kaidan, Lithuania, in 1876. He came to the United States at the age of 15, and went to work as a machine operator on cloaks and suits. In a few years his energies in organizing the workers in this industry were rewarded by a position in the union, and practically for the rest of his life he remained an active union officer.

Strike Leadership

He was well known for his leadership in some of the largest strikes in the cloak and suit industry, including the walkouts of 1916 and 1920, and for his handling of strikes in the dress industry. He was always chosen by the organization to lead negotiations for renewal of agreements in the industry. His friends declared his indomitable energy kept him at his tasks when his physical organism was all but worn out.

Despite his illness and against his doctor's orders he went to Philadelphia recently to attend the biennial convention of the union. The veteran leader was deeply touched by the demonstration of affection and confidence shown by the convention when he was re-elected to the presidency.

He is survived by a widow and three children.

Miners Reject Pay Cut

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Miners at four of the Pittsburgh Terminal Coal Corporation mines voted to reject the company's demand for a 10 per cent wage reduction.